

Ralph John Ballinger OBE

1915 - 2015

Ralph Ballinger OBE was a war hero both on sea and land. He helped feed wartime England when he applied his agricultural degree to advising farmers on how to grow essential vegetable crops.

Ralph was born in North Canterbury and was keen to go farming when his father persuaded him to go to Lincoln College instead. The war broke out and in 1940 Ralph applied and was accepted to go to England and join the Royal Navy. He was a seaman on the destroyer HMS Kipling, a participant in the first ever battle between aeroplanes and ships off Crete. The Kipling was the sole surviving ship, which, after rescuing Lord Louis Mountbatten from floating wreckage, was left by the planes to sink, but instead limped into Alexandria. On return to England, Cambridge Agricultural Institute made a request for Ralph because of his degree. His Captain said, "No-one ever gets out of the navy", but the next day he was transferred to Seed Testing and advisory work that would help feed the English people. After the war Ralph worked for the DSIR in USA and back at Lincoln setting up a Vegetable Research Centre there.

He married Pat in 1948 and moved to Blenheim in 1949. Tomatoes, onions, walnuts and gypsophila were among his many vegetable, flower and seed crops, but he earned fame in supplying fresh asparagus for the Queen. More discrete was the growing of trial seed crops for medicinal morphine poppies under official licence.

Weekdays were for work, Saturdays for church and Sundays for church in his family.

Ralph became a Methodist Lay Preacher, with most of his preaching activity being in the 1950s and 1960s in Marlborough. Ralph was presented with his 40 years Long Service Certificate in June 2009. His children report that their father led the Youth Group, would be in charge of the current fund raising activity, and when they sat down in church dad would disappear and then pop up at the pulpit, leading the service. He was also generous with his time on the Building Committee for the Wesley Centre and Wesley Property Committee, among others.

Ralph wrote books on horticulture, and upon retirement wrote two autobiographies. He was always interested in learning.

Ralph attended church at Wesley regularly right up until the last two years of his life. Even when he was unable to attend he enjoyed chatting about theology and believed that spirituality is embedded in nature. In the hospice at the age of 99, two days before he died, Ralph enquired of Rev Ian Boddy, "Ian, tell me, the Holy Spirit; how does that work?"

The answer given was swiftly found in Ralph's own book, 'The Sea and the Soil':

The spirit is an integral part of all creation. We say 'yes' to life and all that it brings. The spirit, even after the collapse of the whole universe, will continue to exist for all eternity.

We are thankful for Ralph's life, a life filled with learning, adventure, hard work and danger, growing, developing, and advising, alongside joy, romance, love, and doing good and kind deeds for others. Ralph Ballinger lived a wonderful life, which benefited so many people. Amen.

Anthony (Tony) Dale

Died April 2015

Supplementary Tribute

Richard Brian Glover

1935 - 2015

Richard Glover was born in Dewsbury in West Yorkshire in a traditional Methodist home and was a true son of John Wesley all his life. His educational interest as a boy was in science, and he was to graduate with a PHD in Chemistry from Bristol University

He came to New Zealand to in 1960 to work with the DSIR at the Wairakei laboratory at the beginning of New Zealand's world leading geothermal energy programme. His outstanding contribution as a scientist in the harnessing and use of geothermal energy was recognised within New Zealand and internationally. He was elected a Life Member of the Geothermal Association in 2011 and was a consultant in many parts of the world including Kenya, Ethiopia, Italy, El Salvador, Japan and the Philippines. His scientific work was accurate and detailed and his published papers were important to the growth of our understanding of the use of this resource.

He attended St Pauls Union Church in Taupo, where he was a valued and hardworking member. There - as in Glen Eden later, Richard undertook many duties and held numerous positions of leadership and responsibility all of which he undertook quietly and efficiently as service to his Lord.

On retirement he moved to Glen Eden in 1997 where his special qualities were quickly recognised. Parish Steward, Organist, Op Shop Manager, Food Bank deliverer, Worship Leader, and doer of any task that needed doing - that was Richard. He was heavily involved in Hospital Chaplaincy and was a Waitakere Parish Representative on the Auckland Synod, and a member of the annual Conference for many years.

Richard greatly valued and practiced the Methodist ethic of inclusiveness...no one was to be excluded from God's love and grace.

A humble and devout Christian he had a wide interest in peace, ecology, the environment, international affairs and in social services. Richard Glover had a strong sense of justice and stood for the equality of opportunity for all people. Much loved in the Glen Eden Church and the Ekalesia he is sadly missed. He was eighty years of age.

He married Gwyneth Williams a daughter of Rev J C A Williams and they have shared over fifty years together. To Gwyneth, and their family Ceri and Chrissy, David and Jane, Andrew, Rachel and the late John, and the five loved grandchildren the Church offers its love and support.

He was a good man.

Graham Earl Hawkey

1937 - 2015

One of Graham's ministerial colleagues described him as a "Good all-rounder in ministry." Many of his associates would support this affirmation. Another of his colleagues spoke of him as "a cheerful and caring man." Graham was all these things and more.

He was born and educated in Timaru. In his youth he didn't have a lot of self-confidence. This changed when, in his own words, he had "a profound experience of the grace of God in Jesus." After leaving school he worked in the State Insurance office in Timaru. Graham's family were active members in the Marchweil Union Parish in the city. In 1958 he candidated for the ministry and attended Trinity College from 1959 – 1961.

Music was a great love of Graham's. His fellow students at Trinity College remember him as someone who loved playing the piano in the College's common room. His exuberant playing often amused his fellow students. He enjoyed choral music and during his three years in Auckland he sang in choirs singing the great religious oratorios.

At the beginning of 1962 he married Margaret Aspden and they moved to their first appointment in Apiti. From there Graham served in the following parishes; Palmerston North (Trinity) Porirua (Paekakariki), Stratford, Timaru (Bank Street – Temuka), Greymouth Uniting Parish, Ashburton (Baring Square) and Alexandra-Clyde–Lauder Union Parish. He and Margaret returned to Ashburton when he retired.

In addition to his Parish ministries, Graham served as District Superintendent, Chaplain of the Order of St Luke, an Industrial Chaplain, and keeper of the daily record at Conference for eight years.

Graham had a great sense of humour. He could laugh at his own foibles and never took seriously the pomposity and religious pretense in others. He loved socializing with others, though some of his more serious colleagues dreaded being partnered with him in the card game of '500'!

Sport was another one of Graham's passions. For years he was a keenly competitive squash player. He enjoyed playing competitive tennis, as well as bowls and golf.

From his college days Graham enjoyed expressing himself in writing. Many of his meditative and reflective writings were used to great effect in his parish appointments.

The record of service that was prepared for the 2000 Conference at which he retired, noted that his ministry had been characterised by "a concern for the sick, troubled and bereaved, the understanding of spiritual growth as a developing journey in the Eternal Love in time and beyond time, the importance of small group ministries where people can work out personal faith and understanding and addressing issues of justice and Christian service." The record went on to note that his greatest gift was his ability to relate to people of all ages, variety and need.

Graham had the gift of focusing on the person he was conversing with, paying careful attention to what they were saying, showing real interest in them as a person. Many will remember the warmth and strength of his friendship. He will be remembered in parishes by his passion for preaching and worship, his compassion for the troubled and the generous giving of himself.

John Sedgley Hickman QSO

1927 - 2014

John Sedgley Hickman was born into Methodism in Whanganui in 1927 – the second of five children to Don and Nell Hickman. The late Don J Hickman was a Home Missionary and later Ordained as Presbyter.

His early years were spent in the far North – in Rawene and Kaeo during the 1930's global economy depression. They were the 'sugar bag' or 'Depression' years which were a major shaping influence in John's life. He exemplified the Christian values of Service and the importance of family, sharing, giving and lending. He had a deep commitment to the practical manifestations of Gospel values.

In his early years John, like his Father was a builder which sparked his interest in the weather as he struggled with the elements on the building site. Consequently he wanted to be a forecaster and towards this end, finished a degree in mathematics and geology.

John spent most of his distinguished career in the NZ Metrological Service and became its Director in 1977 where he introduced new technology, new services and fostered research to support new developments.

In this role he had a significant contribution to International meteorology and chaired a number of prestigious international Committees including the tripartite inter-governmental Programme on climate change. He retired from this position in 1998 and in 1990 was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Science from Victoria University for his outstanding contribution to the development of meteorological and atmospheric sciences in New Zealand. The Citation emphasized his intensely

practical skills, his foresight and his powers of strategic judgement. He was also awarded the QSO for his Services.

These qualities were brought to the Methodist Church throughout his life especially during his active years in Wesley Church in Taranaki Street Wellington and where he was appointed to Wesley Church Trust (1976-1995) and a Parish Steward (1970-1982). John was committed to the work of the Inner City Ministry (ICM) and believed the Church should be at the 'coal face' in tackling justice and social issues in the City. It was John's vision and strategic judgement that enabled the Wesley Trust to establish a new commercial property in Manners Mall that would ensure the future viability of Wesley Church.

As a member of the Wesley Social Services Trust Board John utilised his superb management, people skills, and visionary approach in facilitating the movement from a Trust Board to a Methodist Mission in its own right. As a result Wesley Wellington began shaping a new vision and projects that went beyond the traditional bounds of Social Services. This has had profound implications for Methodism in Wellington.

John was steeped in Methodism throughout his life and his faith and commitment were nurtured by worship, liturgy and theology. It was not a blind faith but an ongoing search for truth and understanding of the meaning of life. He embraced new theological insights and progressive Christianity.

His mantra throughout his life were the words from Micah, "To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God". John set out to make a difference in life for others. In all that he did was the Vision of a "making all things new". For John "the future lies in front of us not behind us".

Of paramount importance to John in his life was his commitment to family. His wife Joyce died 6 years ago after being together for 57 years. They were a very close unit and she was a great loss to John. Typically, John created for himself a positive outlook on life finding many reasons for living despite episodes of poor health.

John Sedgley Hickman: A good man who lived a good life. A compassionate and generous man.

We give thanks to God for his commitment and service to the Methodist Church; his highly principled behavior, honesty and integrity, and his commitment to fairness and acceptance of responsibility in the work place.

For John's love of nature and this land of Aotearoa and for making our world a better place. We honour John's life of service to the Church, his commitment to his family; Joyce, Michael and Jacky and to the National and wider International Community.

Lana Lazarus

1970 – 2015

Supplementary Tribute

Harry Lendrum

1920 - 2014

On 16th of December Harry Lendrum passed away. Harry was 94. Harry was an active member of the Methodist church in Dargaville and before that the Methodist Church in Te Kopuru. Harry had a beef and sheep farm at Red Hill/ Te Kopuru. The lake that supplies the water to the Red Hill Methodist camp was on their farm and many campers walked over the farm to access the lake. Harry was one of the founding members of the Red Hill campsite, one of the original trustees of the camp. While at the farm he would look after the camp and with his wife Ella was the

treasurer/secretary for the camp for many years. He spent many hours working up at the campsite, making sure campers had a great stay there.

Harry has also been a parish delegate to the then Union District Council, (later became CTN) which is the body that functions as Northland Synod.. At one time served as the president of UDC for a few years; at that time it was not normal for lay people to have such positions as there were plenty of ministers.

He was also a lay preacher for many years and conducted services for congregations in the Kaipara and all over Northland.

Harry loved his church and was a faithful servant.

Stewart John McCallum

1929 – 2015

Stuart was one of a large number of young Methodist men who became Lay Preachers shortly after World War II. Stuart began Lay Preaching aged 18. When he preached for the final time at Okaramio less than ten years ago he had led services at 64 different places of worship (Methodist, Presbyterian and Union). Many of these were small and remote – including Akitio, Pongaroa, Pohangina, Halcolme, Makomako, Carluke, Onamalutu, Tua Marina and Wairau Bar. Pahiatua, Woodville, Fielding, Blenheim and Picton were among the larger settings. Stuart's wife Fay recalls Stuart, Lester Holdaway and Mick Jellyman going to jointly lead a service at Mahakipawa, to be matched by a congregation of just three, including a woman whose loud singing drowned out all the other voices. It was standard for Stuart to have five MHB hymns, prayers, a 20 minute sermon based on the text of the day, and still complete the service on the hour as expected. Stuart was recognised with Lay Preaching service certificates from both the Methodist and Presbyterian churches.

It was Stuart's farming ventures which took him and his family to these Marlborough, Wairarapa and Manawatu localities, and always he was on school committees.. He was also on the instigating committee in Masterton for the Golden Shears contest and a local competitor in the International Silver Plough preliminaries over a number of years. In more recent years he and Fay had leading roles in Marlborough Pakeke Lions. Stuart's keen interest in farm vehicles and machinery translated into his retirement involvement in the Brayshaw Park Riverside Railway as driver and engineer on the train's Sunday afternoon family and visitor excursions. Every Saturday he was on a Railway working bee. Stuart received timely recognition for his Railway work during his increasingly failing health early this year. Stuart is fondly remembered by the many people he knew. He is survived by Fay and sons James, Duncan, Philip.

Jean Isobel McInnes MBE

1925 - 2014

Jean Isobel Penson was born in Dunedin in 1925 and was the only child of Margaret and Joseph Penson of Green Island. She was educated at Green Island Primary School; then later she attended King Edward Technical College in Dunedin. Her involvement in the Methodist Church began at an early age with Sunday School and Bible Class. She particularly enjoyed Bible Class Camps, continuing to attend these even when she left school to commence employment, as she could spend time with friends in a fun-filled, relaxed environment.

Jean married in 1948 and relocated to Oamaru. She immediately joined the Oamaru Methodist Church which was to become a significant part of her life. She also qualified as a Speech Teacher, working from home, combining caring for her family with tutoring and church commitments. Her involvement in numerous outreach programmes of the church, as well as in a number of support services for disadvantaged people in the local and regional areas, resulted in the awarding of an MBE to her in the Queen's Honour List. This was presented at Government House by the

Governor General and was a proud moment for her and her family.

To further her role within the church, Jean studied to become a Deacon. She was ordained in 1990 and this acceptance by the Methodist Church gave her much pleasure, as she was able to respond to the needs of others in so many different ways. She was well known for her desire to help people in a respectful, kind and quietly caring manner.

A number of Life Memberships and Commendations from a wealth of organizations decorate her office, including groups such as St. John, NZ Police, Birthright, IHC and CCS. While her involvement in both the church and community were demanding, she also worked as the School Secretary of Oamaru Intermediate School for 25 years. She was passionate about this work and became well known to hundreds of local children who spent time at the school as part of their educational journey. Her legacy at the school was her professional approach to her work and her kindness to staff and pupils.

In recent years she had a number of health concerns. Jean passed away in November 2014, having led a faith-filled and fulfilled life. She is sadly missed by her husband, her daughters, her grandchildren and her great grandchildren.

Alan Newman

1927 - 2015

Alan was born in 1927, in a house his father built on a 6 acre farmlet in Eskdale Rd, Birkdale, the youngest of five children. Being a child of the Depression years saw him attending to his share of chores at home chopping wood, feeding stock, etc, with little time for playing. He could recall only 3 family picnics, no family holidays. When opportunity allowed, he enjoyed exploring the bush reserve at the bottom of the farm; this likely introducing him to his lifelong love of the bush. He was a creative handyman; his gardening was exceptional; *“their sheer size and the volume of produce grown was staggering”*.*

Alan was Man of the People – a defender of the poor and disadvantaged and those who couldn't defend themselves, influenced strongly by his experiences of the haves and have not's of the depression years. He had strong moral standards, a dogged determination, and the courage to live by his views; from the pulpit, in meetings and with his pen, he *“waged war on Social injustice and shone the moral spotlight on institutionalised inequality”*.*

He also provided a strong pastoral ministry, nurtured initially under the training of Rev. Dr D.O. Williams, and exercised in parish, Hospital Chaplaincy, telephone ministry, and in the community. He organised several trips for people into areas of native bush which also helped foster friendships among them.

His social consciousness also led him to the cause of Maori people – both in Taranaki, and with Tuhoë in the Ureweras. While in Palmerston North he began what became a Master's degree with First Class honours – his Thesis being on Maori Spirituality and the early Ringatu Church. His research led him to many places in the back blocks of the North Island and resulted in many stories.

Alan was also a Man of the Earth. His strong environmental values were nourished by his genuine love of the natural world. He was at his happiest in the deepest parts of our native forests, with clean streams and raucous bird song. In retirement he devoted much of his time to environmental causes. He was the local chairman of Forest and Bird for 7 years and was active in many programmes including Kokako at Rotoehu and Saddleback & Stitchbirds on Mokoia Island. He was an active DOC volunteer doing pest baiting and track clearing all over the place including Little Barrier Island. He spent a summer as Hut Warden in a DOC hut up the Whirinaki in Urewera country. He also knew how to catch trout, and how to cook it!

In respect to family, he worked hard all his life to balance the requirements of home life and his social conscience. From the garden there was always plenty of food on the table, while minds

were fed with music, a library of books, lots of adventures, and fun; he had a delightful sense of humour.

He died suddenly in Rotorua hospital, in his 88th year, leaving behind Heather, his supportive wife of 62 years, and a well educated and strong family.

The parishes he served in were Greytown, Westport, Greymouth, Hawera, Rotorua, Palmerston North, and Fielding, thence followed a couple of short stints on Stewart Island, and in Opotiki. He retired into Rotorua (Ngongotaha, Owkata, and recently, the Redwoods Retirement Village in Owkata).

Rosaline Mary Vingoe (Vin) Percy

1932 - 2015

Vin Percy was born in Waikari on 11th June 1932. In 1950 Vin moved to Christchurch to work, advancing to head typist at Dalgety's before starting her Nursing training in 1956.

She graduated in 1959 as top of the class, winning the Hospital medal and Florence Nightingale medal, and was then appointed Staff Nurse of a 40 bed women's surgical ward. Then she did 6 months maternity training in Lower Hutt returning to be Sister in charge of a 40 bed male surgical ward.

In 1961 she married Bill Percy and gave support to his carrying business in Christchurch for some 8 months when Bill was unable to drive. They have three children, Gail, Christine and Peter, and five grandchildren.

Vin became a receptionist typist at the Methodist Church Connexional Office and many will remember her role when she became Personal Assistant to the General Secretary. This was a position she held for many years and during that time became a respected friend of a great many people.

It could be said that Vin was the person to contact for information, as over the years she gained a wide understanding of the Church and a close knowledge of its people. It was often Vin who was the first port of call, because she would probably know.

Vin gave 21 years of service at the Connexional Office. She always cared about and looked after people. In many ways Vin was better at looking after others than herself. She was there to help and to encourage as a supportive person, whose concern was for accuracy and the importance of getting it right. That trait was very much part of all of her work.

At the Annual Conference people sought Vin out for information or called by just to say hello. The significant thing was that no matter how busy she was, somehow she found time to respond. In the days before Computers she typed all the reports from The Committees of Detail so they could be photocopied and distributed to all Conference members. It was an enormous task diligently undertaken year by year.

During the farewell to her at her last Conference, the question was asked, "how many people here have phoned Vin?" and almost half those present put up their hands.

Those who knew Vin experienced a professional touch, as she kept confidentially. Her style allowed us to trust her totally. She was thorough and careful. How useful this was for the church. She listened so we knew she understood issues and responded appropriately. We knew her friendly smile and warmth.

When Vin left the Connexional Office she became Secretary for the North Canterbury District Synod for 2 years.

Vin was a totally committed in her life to her family, to the work she did for the Church and in her community activities. She was dedicated, and lived out her faith in a practical way in the wider world. Bill and Vin enjoyed 44 years of Square Dancing making many lifelong friends.

Along with Bill, Gail, Christine, Peter and their families, we give thanks for her life.

Russell Clifton Pitt

Died December 2014

Russell Pitt was born into a Methodist heritage, with links to the Olds and Russell families. He had formative years in the Ngaio Methodist Sunday School and church (before it became Ngaio Union), in the District CYMM Movement and in Boys' Brigade. He chose Margaret McColl, another Ngaio Methodist youth and Boys' Brigade Team Section leader, as his wife and they would faithfully serve the church in many capacities.

Russell followed in his father's footsteps as a youth leader. When it was time to start work, Sunday School superintendent Tom Kennedy - one of Russell's valued mentors - found Russell a job with AH and AW Reed Books. Forty-eight years later Russell was still travelling in books and was highly respected in the book trade.

Ngaio Union families and young people benefitted greatly from Russell being part of the high calibre team of Sunday school and youth workers. Teenagers benefitted from the well-rounded Ngaio Union Bible Class (NuBic) programmes covering spiritual, social, sporting and community service activities. Their evening youth services were outstanding - and at this time another mentor, Derek Taylor, encouraged Russell to begin preaching.

Russell's captaincy and wise care of the Boys' Brigade members was outstanding and one occasion, having taken a group of 11-12 year olds on their first tramp, he called for a helicopter - at his own expense - to airlift the stranded lads out of the Waiohine Gorge! He also had concerns for the wider community and wider world, and just as NuBic had its 'Ministry of Works' practical community programme, so he had the 28th Company involved with Civil Defence. Under Russell's leadership several boys achieved their Queen's Man awards.

From Boys' Brigade Russell moved into Sunday school work. For 50 years his love of young people has been to the fore. What a delight it was when he and Margaret welcomed their own sons. He has been a role model for hundreds of young people, a great many of whom attended his funeral on 7 January.

In the 1990s he began more formal training in worship leading, first attending Wellington Bible College and later studying for a Licentiate of Theology through Eidits - enjoying broadening his theological and biblical knowledge, while never achieving less than A and B pass rates. Church members watched with growing admiration as he grew in his ability and confidence to express the depths of his faith in music, prayers and sermons. As a qualified lay preacher he and his guitar were in popular demand at churches district-wide. He was also secretary of the Lay Preachers' Association when it was based in Wellington 2000-2003.

Like his preaching, his musical ability grew over the years from singing with a simple guitar accompaniment to performing with the Celtic Plus band around Wellington. His love of Celtic music and spirituality grew and visiting Iona, Scotland gave him extra insights and resources to draw on. This, and his ability to teach a new song was again appreciated not only by Ngaio Union's music group but by the people in the parishes he visited.

Russell was a Parish Councillor - right from Ngaio Union's 1971 inauguration - giving increasingly wise and practical leadership, informed by his deep faith in God, his life experiences and recently, his ongoing study - all this while travelling the bottom half of the North Island and top half of the South Island with his book selling.

He ably chaired Ngaio Union's Worship and Education Committee - a role valued by successive ministers as much as they valued having him on the preaching team. Having an extra lay person authorised to administer communion made it so much easier to maintain the regular sacraments and services with three-quarter-time paid ministry. The team worked well together, blessing the parish and community with their leadership.

On 29 December Russell - always a keen, fit, outdoorsman - was with Margaret enjoying climbing the Okiwi Track, near Kaikoura, when 45 minutes down from the summit he collapsed and died from a sudden, totally unexpected heart attack.

His loss is keenly felt in all the circles within which he moved and served, but all who knew and value him would say, "Well done good and faithful servant - enter into the joy of your Lord."

Jean Rickard

Died November 2014

Supplementary Tribute

Edith Sealey

1929 - 2015

Edith Sealey was an extraordinary woman whom many were privileged to know.

She was born on 10 February 1929 in Timaru as Edith Pratley. Her father left the home when Edith was three and life became very tough for her mother, Lucy, as a solo mother with three children, during the depression.

At the age of nine, Edith was hospitalised with a bone marrow disease, osteomyelitis, and spent the next four years in hospital. At the end of the war, antibiotics were made available to civilians, Edith made a good recovery.

After leaving school, Edith worked as a seamstress in Wellington; there she met Victor Sealey they married in 1951. They moved to Waitoa where they farmed for 43 years. In retirement they moved to Morrinsville. Edith and Victor were married for 62 years. They had 7 children Edith was an amazingly competent mother. She made chores seem like fun. Edith sewed all the children's clothes, mostly during the night when they were sleeping. She made birthdays and Christmases such fun, because she was as excited about them as were the children. Whilst caring for her large family, Edith took full responsibility for feeding and rearing around 100 or more calves every year on the farm.

When her mother was unable to look after herself in her later years, Edith did not hesitate to become carer for her.

Edith was extremely involved in local actives, charity work and crafts. She was a member of the Women's Institute for over 60 years. Edith was a great sewer and knitter, and a perfectionist in both. She won a number of national first prizes for knitting and sewing including the New Zealand Wool Board prize three times. Edith also did a great deal of work for the Red Cross Society. In 2000 she was awarded Honorary Life Member.

Originally a Presbyterian, Edith became a Methodist in 1951. She became a member of Waitoa Methodist Women's Fellowship. She was Thames Valley District Treasurer, NZMWF National Treasurer for 2 years, Waikato & Thames Valley District Treasurer for 7 years, NZMWF National Treasurer for 2 further years and a member of the Smethurst Grants Committee for 9 years.

Edith had many health problems which few knew about, she suffered a cerebral trauma whilst under anaesthetic leaving her unable to speak for 6 months - imagine running a family of

headstrong children under those circumstances. She broke her leg whilst chasing the ducks out of the section one morning. Her leg took 2 years to repair, after which osteomyelitis recurred, and after many years of failed treatments, resulted in a high amputation of one leg. She continued to manage the family, feeding the calves every spring, keep up with all of her community activities.

Edith joined the Amputee Society where she was a member for 25 years and Treasurer for many years. In recognition of the contribution Edith made to the Amputee Society of Waikato, BOP and Districts she was awarded with a Life Time membership of the society, and to date she is the only person to receive this honour. At the age of 70, Edith was diagnosed with diabetes. At that time, getting in and out of her wheel chair was also becoming increasingly difficult.

Before Victor died he suffered gradual deterioration due to dementia. Edith had a very strategic, pragmatic and loving approach to supporting him. Edith was also a project manager. She project managed Victor's last few years to perfection.

Edith always said that when she died, she would simply go to sleep one night and not wake up. Well, even that she project managed to perfection - she went to bed on the night of her birthday, and never woke up.

Edith taught her family and friends many lessons 'you have to be very careful how you treat elderly people, as you do not know what you will be like yourself, when you get old'.

Edith is reported as telling her family 'that her husband may not be perfect, but he was the man she loved and chose to spend her life with' this comment is a reminder for me and each of us.

Edith Sealey has been a living example of a committed wife, a truly dedicated and loving mother and the most amazing example of a Christian woman I have had the good fortune to know.

Lane Tauroa

1925 - 2015

A Good man. He was always a good man. That is what is said over and over again, of Lane Tauroa. He was a good husband, a good father, and a good presbyter. Lane was kind and thoughtful though he could be outspoken! Lane had all the qualities necessary for the wide-ranging situations into which he was drawn.

Born at Russell in 1925, he suffered as a child with poor health. As a consequence, he was sent to Rapaki to recuperate and recover. There he built up his strength with daily hill climbs – a hint of the determination and practical approach to life that carried him through his education, including a year at Wesley College, and eventually, his ministry.

Lane began work as a Freezing Worker, and then with encouragement from the late Dr Maharaia Winiata, he returned to Wesley College as a part-time student and gardener. From there he attended Auckland University College and a year later entered Trinity College training, graduating with a BA. He was ordained in 1956, and his father Matarae Tauroa, who was a Maori Methodist Minister, assisted at the ordination.

Two years later, Lane travelled overseas to study at the Union Theological Seminary in New York. While there, he wrote a letter of proposal to Deaconess Mavis Dickie – they were married in 1959, had three children, one of whom sadly died soon after birth, and three adopted children.

Lane's next adventure was later awarded a World Council of Churches Scholarship to study at Union Theological Seminary. The Maori Section of the National Council of Churches showed its confidence by sponsoring his time overseas.

In 1963 Lane was appointed by the National Council of Churches to work at Bandung, Indonesia, and continued his ministry there till 1966 as a Fraternal Worker, becoming proficient in the language of the people. His writings during this time were published. He had a great love for the

Indonesian people and their culture.

In 1967-8 Lane was stationed in New Plymouth in the Taranaki Maori Circuit and this was followed by an appointment as Chaplain to the Waikeria Youth Centre near Te Awamutu for eight years. He and the family became a huge part of the strong community spirit that existed there. Following that, he was appointed in 1977 to the Pakeha Circuit of Hawera.

Throughout the whole of their married life, and Lane's ministry, Mavis was by his side, ably giving full support to all he did. They were well-matched, Mavis with her strong Deaconess ministry, and Lane, able to effectively straddle the Maori and Pakeha worlds.

Lane had a great sense of humour, sometimes very dry; he could be drawn into debates and exchange of thought, which, say his family, always left one feeling privileged. He always wanted others to draw their own conclusions. Whanaungatanga and Manaakitangi were very important to values to him. He had a questioning and challenging nature, though never with arrogance or self-righteousness, and great generosity with which he gave of his time, love and support to his whanau, congregations and friends.

His knowledge of the Bible and Biblical times was encyclopaedic. His wisdom; you could always rely on a well thought-out answer. It has been written of Lane "A diligent hard worker, a good preacher able to use simple concise language, a good participant and listener on the Marae, fluent in the Maori language, good in the counselling situation - these are some of the deep impressions made upon those amongst whom Lane lived and worked. We give thanks for his ministry.

Basil Clifford Teague

1934 - 2014

A genuinely "good guy" whose energy for service was not confined to serving just his church

Basil, over more than fifty years became a patriarch of the Papanui Methodist Church and in due course the Christchurch North Methodist Parish. With Pat, his wife of 57 years, he came to Papanui and their first home, in 1958 where they joined the local congregation, and established a family of five, 3 boys and 2 girls.

Basil came from the Sydenham Methodist Church (where he had met Pat) and where under the influence of Rev Andrew Johnson and then Rev Colin Clark he took up leadership roles in Bible Class, Boys Brigade, and the Badminton Club. As part of a group of young men he was encouraged to consider lay preaching. His lay preaching career took him all over the North Canterbury region. He was known for his innovative ideas throughout the span of his fifty plus years as a lay preacher. His preaching was always down to earth and well balanced, leaving his hearers with practical insights to take away.

Basil served his Papanui congregation as Lay Preacher, Sunday School Superintendent (in the 1960's the Sunday School numbered more than 200), Parish Steward, and a Property Trustee, Leaders' Meeting, Synod and Conference member. Basil served his local Methodist Church in almost every capacity. In his work in the Parish he encouraged the establishment of new areas of outreach, through the Men's Breakfast, Jigsaw Puzzle Library, the Parish Opportunity Shop, monthly community Musical Afternoons. He contributed quietly without fuss, and was always dependable. His witty, quiet humour often flickered through his contribution to discussions and debates.

Family was always Basil's prime concern. He supported and encouraged Pat when she was elected Vice President (1987), and was pleased and delighted when his daughter Nicola was elected Vice President (1999). He supported his children in all their activities and loved being a grandfather.

His concerns and interests were wide and varied. Over the period from 1978 to 1997, he and Pat hosted eight overseas exchange students who have now become a special part of their extended family.

The wider community benefitted from his natural abilities as they were demonstrated in his voluntary work. He chaired PTA's, Sports Clubs, the local Credit Union and AFS Canterbury where his particular gift was fund-raising. With Pat he gave service through AFS (the international student exchange programme) being the recipients of the International Galatti Award in 1990. This was in recognition of their leadership and his fund-raising efforts in New Zealand which provided scholarships to enable other students to experience this cultural exchange.

In whatever interest or activity Basil was involved, he always set goals and responded to a challenge. The onset of Parkinson's Disease early in 2008 was no exception. His sheer determination not to let it beat him helped tremendously in assisting him through the later period of his life.

He sang in choirs, and was a keen gardener. His motivation was always to help others. Reflecting James 1:22: in all his undertakings he was a thorough "doer" never just a hearer.

Basil Teague – supportive, ever ready to serve, a quiet and deep disciple.

Neville Thornicroft

1923 - 2015

As a young local preacher in training in 1949 – 50 I first met Neville Thornicroft at Local Preachers meetings which were held regularly in those days – monthly, if I remember correctly. He was a kind, considerate member of the Association, especially to an unsure female. – There were very few females into preaching in those days. Of course it could have helped that he was the brother-in-law of the young man I was walking out with and eventually married.

Neville was a good local preacher who presented a good message and fulfilled his duties of at last two service a month and often more, at any Methodist church in the City and beyond with diligence and reverence. In those days he had a good voice and was able to lead singing at some of those small churches we all served.

He and Rosalie left Dunedin in 1952 or '53 when he was accepted for training as a married student at Trinity Theological College in Auckland.

This was a huge move for then and life was not easy with a young family, (they already had a young son and Rachel was born in Auckland soon after). They had no income, apart from I believe, five shillings a week student allowance. This was a walk of faith.

It says a great deal for his and Rosalie's commitment to their God and to their church, because for the first year that was all they had.

Stationing appointments from the records of the Connexional office show Neville was called in 1955 – at Bombay Tuakau (1st Year of probation), 1957 stationed at Motueka, 1962 stationed at Geraldine-Temuka

Neville and Rosalie were always a team. In every Circuit or Parish, Neville was called to, Rosalie assisted him wholeheartedly, playing the organ or piano, and even gained her Lay Preacher's certification to better help in the work.

Neville's first parish as a probationer was at Bombay/Tuakau. The parsonage was not the greatest, it was very inconvenient especially with a young family. One of the things I remember about the house was the stable type door – I think it led into the kitchen.

None of the parishes they served were easy and they were mostly in out of the way places. You will no doubt say – well Waipawa is not out of the way, and possibly it is not, but they were far from family in every place they served.

Their home was always a refuge for people who were finding life hard. They did not turn people

away. Jesus Christ was their example of caring and giving. Both Neville and Rosalie gave of themselves freely to the people of their parishes and were loved wherever they went.

I think the most accessible was Picton where they had a lovely home and lots of visitors. We were living in Wellington at the time and sometimes went across on the ferry to visit for the day. The most inaccessible was Motueka. A beautiful area, but not easy to get to by any stretch of the imagination.

Neville loved books and read widely. As his hearing deteriorated, he spent more time with his books and was a fount of knowledge on many things historical, especially the history of Methodism.

Neville and Rosalie retired in Warkworth in 1983 and later moved back to Waipawa in the lovely Hawkes Bay where they loved happily in what had been their parsonage when they were minister and wife here.

Neville Thornicroft, a man who loved his Lord and served God with his heart and soul. It is the tireless workers in small parishes who are the backbone of the church. No one's ministry is gone unnoticed by our all-seeing and all-loving God. Rest peacefully friend, you have run the race and finished the course, you can take your ease in the presence of Almighty God.

To you, Paul, Rachel and Esther, you are the older generation now. Those gifts and graces that you most admired in your Dad and your Mum, make them your own – in that way they will not be forgotten. God be with you.

Grandchildren and Great-grandchildren, remember your Grandparents with love in the way they loved and cared for you. God bless you all

Kristofer Ngahau Exham Rere Wichman

1978 - 2015

When Jesus's parents found him, they were amazed. His mother said, "Son why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been very worried, and we've been searching for you!" Jesus answered, "Why did you have to look for me? Didn't you know I would be in my father's house?" Luke 2: 47-49

Kristofer Ngahau Exham Rere Wichman, was a blessed name that echoed off the walls of St Helens hospital on the 3rd of June 1978 in Wellington.

Robina and Tu Wichman devotedly raised Kris with his five brothers and one sister, in the knowing of both their Maori and Cook Islander way of being, in Lower Hutt.

In 1986 Kristofer's awakening to his spiritual journey came to light, where his beloved 3 year old brother Michael-Lee moved between realms in an accidental house fire.

Silent inner questions flooded Kristofer's soul, and yet this was the turning point where he dedicated time, to see answers beyond his years.

The determination to rise above the mist of unforeseen doubts, embraced the wind of change, so all could see and celebrate in his baptism at the age of 9 in the Hutt River, near Taita Rock.

Over time Kristofer's seed of hope continued to reach heights beyond mountains. He had the attitude of gratitude, he was like King David, a man who was said to be after God's own heart.

Faith was demonstrated on a daily basis by Kristofer, which evidently allowed him to journey a path to explore the true beauty of our bi-cultural journey, which bonds us as a Methodist family.

Endless hours of commitment was a given, by Kristofer. He was honoured to serve as an active member of Poneke Rohe, where doors of opportunities opened for him to spread his wings.

Representation on Hui Poari, Rangatahi Planning Group and Council of Conference were some areas he touched. Climate change and social Issues captured his attention at Annual Conferences also.

Widely it was known about his passion towards youth ministry. As the Poneke Rangatahi Coordinator he encouraged, motivated, entertained, and inspired the hearts of many. Indeed he reflected love; even in challenging times he had no time to doubt his potential, especially training towards a Kaikarakia leadership role within the heart of Te Taha Maori. Changes happen, due to life challenges he faced, which were not all tasting of candyfloss. He questioned others and his own understanding of theology, and yet his faith remained strong. He lived his life like a superhero and a sidekick joint at the hip. He was seen as a jack of all trades and master of none. He was a multitalented water rat, you name it and he did it! Music flowed in Kristopher's blood, from Kapa Haka performances with the Patea Maori Club and holding a note in karakia, to shaking it on the dance floor. He was even a gifted guitar player. Acknowledgment of Kristopher's courageous act of self-sacrifice, saving his two daughters Izzy and Ava, and niece, Kiri-Tepanninga, from drowning in heavy seas off Patea, will never be forgotten. Now and forever we will celebrate, a brother we loved as Kris. With God's love, the church says thank you, to Kristopher's parents, siblings and his beautiful daughters Grace, Izzy and Ava. May Kris's heart reflect like the beating warm sun light on the ocean waves, and his life remembered like an echo in every sea shell that homes our shores.

"Tawhiti rawa tōu haerenga ake te kore haere tonu"
We have come too far not to go further.
We have done too much not to do more.

Jack Wright

1927 - 2015

Supplementary Tribute

Lourdino Yuzon

Died January 2015

There are number of New Zealand people, both clerical and lay, who recall with affection and delight Lourdino's year at Knox Presbyterian College in 1963. Even the long passage of time has not dulled the memory of this astute, hard-working, fun-loving student from the Philippines.

When therefore I first met Lourdino at a Manila meeting of the Christian Conference of Asia in 1986, I had already heard of him from NZ friends and read some of his writings. At the time he was Secretary for Mission and Evangelism of the CCA and had gained a reputation as far afield as Aotearoa New Zealand for sharp social analysis and as someone adept at building relationships among regional churches and encouraging the sharing of resources, both in terms of people and printed material. It was evident to me at the Manila meeting that people were drawn to him because of his learning and wisdom, and his many other gifts including his inspired preaching and sense of humour.

It was to our unqualified surprise and delight therefore that Lourdino agreed to take up an appointment as national Secretary of the New Zealand (Methodist and Presbyterian) Council for Mission and Ecumenical Cooperation. At the time I recall how surprised the NZ churches were at landing such a wonderful catch in the large ocean of the Asian-Pacific region!

So began a very happy and stimulating relationship between Lourdino (and his family) and the wider NZ churches and communities. From 1991 to 1994, he was the national Joint Secretary of the Council for Mission responsible for the oversight of the partnership between NZ churches on one hand and the churches of Melanesia, South East Asia and (some) south African churches on the other.

This necessitated an understanding of and ability to comment on the issues confronting our NZ churches and our partner churches in those countries; issues such as racism, corruption, aspects of the colonial past, inequality of resources, interfaith dialogue, militarisation and care of the environment.

At national Assemblies and Conferences, Lourdino and his team confronted and challenged people to think about and act on these issues, in the spirit of Christ, and he did so with grace, humour and insight into the fundamental causes of injustice. Someone said that he packed a punch well beyond his weight! He impressed the NZ churches with his well-rounded Biblical interpretation, and the earthing of the Gospel of peace, love and justice in everyday societal issues. His memorable teachings remain in the hearts and minds of many New Zealanders.

Lourdino will be particularly remembered for the way he helped the NZ church to affirm that salvation is both individual and social, for God is concerned about individual persons *and* the human communities to which they belong. For him, the issue was not the either/or but the both/and of God's saving purpose and mission in the world. The dialectic truth of the 'both/and' approach helped us deal with difficult questions such as homosexual law reform and how to bring conservative and progressive views of 'mission' together.

Lourdino and Mercia returned to New Zealand in 2006 to take up an appointment in Matamata Union Parish. In a letter at the end of his tenure in 2009, the Parish Council declared that *"we have been extremely privileged to have had Lourdino, accompanied by his wife Mercia, working in our parish and our community for the last three years, in faithful, loyal and dedicated service to us. They both have a humbling and unassuming manner that radiates God's love and we have been blessed to have experienced it first-hand."*

On the global scene and in his work with the NZ Council for Mission, Lourdino made a profound contribution to our understanding of the social, economic, political and religious causes of conflict, and what each of us can do to work for the wellbeing of all people and the sustainability of the whole created order.

His ability to communicate in word and deed the fundamental Gospel truths will always be held in the collective memory of Kiwis. As a follower of Christ, Lourdino was, in his daughter Mily's words, *"the best example of what a Christian should be, bearing the fruit of the Spirit in full measure. His life's purpose was to be a faithful servant of his Servant Lord."*